

**Substance Abuse Services Commission  
Meeting of September 13, 2014  
State Office, DHHS, Conference Room C  
41 Anthony Avenue  
Augusta, Maine**

**ATTENDANCE**

**Members Present:**

Peter McCorison, Chair  
Darren Ripley  
Irene Laney  
Scott Gagnon  
Rep. Ann Dorney  
Sen. Colleen Lachowicz (phone)

**Members Absent/Excused:**

Bill Lowenstein  
Robert Rogers  
Tom Leonard  
Robert Creamer  
Diehl Snyder, MD  
Rep. Carol A. McElwee  
Rep. Katherine Cassidy  
Rep. Peter Stuckey

**Office of Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services:**

Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS

**Guests:**

Raya Kouletsis, Coordinator, MAPSA (phone)  
Jane Harper, MaineGeneral  
Jim Mello, Clinical Director, Discovery House, Bangor & Waterville  
Tina Roy, Counselor, Discovery House, Waterville  
Neill Miner, AdCare Maine  
Deborah Doiron, AdCare Maine, Recorder

**Substance Abuse Services Commission  
Meeting of September 10, 2014  
State Office, DHHS, Conference Room C  
41 Anthony Avenue  
Augusta, Maine**

**SEPTEMBER MINUTES**

<b>DRAFT Date:</b>	<b>September 12, 2014</b>	<b>SASC Approved:</b>	
<b>Signed:</b> Recorded by: Deborah Doiron, AdCare Maine			

**Meeting Convened:** 9:00 A.M.

**Adjourned:** 12:00

**Meeting Convened:** By Peter McCorison

**Agenda:**

- General Meeting Opening: Introductions, Review Agenda; Public Forum

**New Business:**

- Review of Minutes of Previous Meeting: August 13, 2014
- SAMHS Update – Geoff Miller, Deputy Director, SAMHS representing Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS
- Increased access to MAT in the State of Maine

**Old Business:**

- Follow-up on Recovery
- Follow-up on the Letter of request to SAMHS on Recovery
- Follow-up on the Recovery Month Proclamation – Darren Ripley

**Prepare Agenda Items for Next Meeting on October 8, 2014**

**Adjourn meeting 12:00**

**SASC Meeting - General Opening Statements**

**Peter McCorison, Chairperson  
Introductions and Public Guest Comments**

Peter McCorison welcomed the members. Introductions were then given. There were not enough members present for a quorum to approve the July or August minutes. Peter moved the July and August minutes to the October Meeting for approval. Peter briefly described to the members what would be covered in the meeting. Peter announced that SAMHS has updated the

SASC section on its website to include copies of the monthly minutes. Because the SASC is a public meeting and the minutes are now available to all in the State of Maine, the Commission will no longer be sending out the minutes to individuals. Guy described to the members and guests how to get to these minutes: Go to SAMHS's Website; SAMHS Information; About Us; SASC; Duties of the Commission and Meeting Minutes. If anyone has a problem accessing these documents, please let Guy know and he will forward a direct link. Peter stated that SAMHS has also updated the pillars on the SAMHS website to include Recovery.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

N/A

**NEW BUSINESS - September Agenda**

**Topic #1 – Review of Minutes of Previous Meetings – July & August Minutes**

Discussions: feedback on minutes

**Conclusions or Actions: Motion for Acceptance and Seconded for June Minutes**

- ☐ **Motion accepted with corrections or amendments to be made to previous month's minutes, Responsible Lead Person – Deb Doiron**

**The July and August minutes have been moved forward to the October meeting for approval. There were not enough members present at this meeting for a quorum.**

**Topic #2 – SAMHS Update – Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS**

Discussion:

Topics reported on:

- 1) Mental Illness Prevention and Wellness Promotion – being added to activities in SAMHS prevention pillar around substance abuse; disseminating information around this via several mechanisms, including advertisements on radio; personal outreach; using NAMI as a resource for people;
- 2) Work group on credentialing – making progress; SAMHS's goal is to apply to the Board for RCAC by January 2015;
- 3) Recently hired Mathew Braun as the Manager of the Partnership for Success II program; SAMHS also has two student interns;
- 4) Provider Prevention Day; scheduled for November 5, 2014 – Topics being covered this year will include developing educational opportunities; skills for the partnership staff; youth recovery panel; and a presentation on the shared risk and protective factors of mental health and substance abuse;
- 5) Fetal Alcohol Spectrum Disorder Drug Affected Babies Conference was held September 9, 2014;
- 6) SAMHS has arranged for some sustainability training through the Northeast Center for Applied Prevention Technology (NE CAPT) to be utilized by the Healthy Maine Partnerships and Drug Free Communities Coalitions across the State. AdCare is helping to support SAMHS' efforts on these trainings;

- 7) Changes are being made with treatment providers in regards to substance abuse services: making their model and level of service workable from both a treatment and a business perspective, because of the changes in Medicaid eligibility services; also looking at conversion of beds and residential treatment from male to female services, more at the halfway house level;
- 8) Continue to have conversations with providers and APS Healthcare around intensive outpatient programming to make this care more easily accessed, more sustained and to avoid more costly services;
- 9) Guy discussed with the members the DHHS safety policies regarding escorting individuals coming into the building for meetings;
- 10) Budget deliberations for the new fiscal year are going on right now; nearly ready;
- 11) Umbrella and Angels; this organization is now able to bill, once again, for MaineCare services;
- 12) Acting Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy, Michael Botticelli will be visiting Maine on October 8<sup>th</sup> & 9<sup>th</sup>; Bangor on 8<sup>th</sup>, Portland on the 9<sup>th</sup>. There is a possibility of meeting with him sometime on Thursday, October 9<sup>th</sup>; Michael Botticelli has been nominated to be the Director;
- 13) Number of vacancies; Sharon Arsenault has taken a new position; SAMHS has six vacant positions, including four state employee positions. The Office is awaiting approval to start the process of hiring.

#### **Other discussions:**

A question was raised about Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) and whether this information was being disseminated as part of SAMHS' public messaging. Guy stated that this information is being distributed through educational materials by the Healthy Maine Partnerships across the State;

Accessing empty beds at halfway houses: a discussion addressed access to treatment by parents of children in DHHS custody. Guy described the overall services; parenting education clause; collaboration; SAMHS positions to see if they can head up grants; working on finalization of the application;

Peter McCorison and Guy Cousins talked about the development of the "Triple P" model.

Governor's Regional Opiate Issues Conference: Maine was not able to be represented

Peter referenced the SASC request to explore the impact of the legalization of marijuana. Guy stated that he raised this issue previously with the Department and Governor's office and was told that the recreational marijuana issue will be dealt with at the community level. Guy stated that SAMHS will make available to the Commission any data requested, but that the analysis of the data will have to be done by the Commission itself. Guy also mentioned that SAMHS already has marijuana fact sheets available on their website. Scott Gagnon stated that the Prevention Community already has this information. Peter noted that the Commission is looking for something much more comprehensive, like cost and benefits, and stated that he would like to set up a date with SAMHS to discuss the letter of request.

**Conclusions or Actions:**

**Guy will provide a link regarding Triple P to the members;**

**Peter will connect with Guy to set up a meeting date and time for further discussion on the marijuana request letter given to SAMHS.**

**Topic #3 – Recovery Letter for SAMHS:**

Peter informed Guy that the Commission is creating a letter of request regarding recovery that will be presented to SAMHS at the next meeting. The Commission wishes to continue engaging Guy and his team in recovery initiatives throughout the State. The Commission members would also like to work collaboratively with SAMHS in defining and strengthening the Recovery pillar around the issues of substance abuse. The Commission will deliver this letter to Guy at the October meeting. Peter stated that the Commission is trying to engage and support SAMHS in initiatives that it perceives as significant. Guy informed the members that one of the staff positions he is waiting for approval to fill is the Recovery Manager position.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

**Peter McCorison will coordinate with Ann and Darren to finalize the letter of request on recovery. The letter will be given to Guy Cousins, Director, SAMHS at the next meeting on October 8th**

**Topic #4 – MAT recommendations work****Discussions:**

Peter stated that at last month's meeting the Commission members created a list of 10 or 11 recommendations for MAT. Peter created a rough draft that he presented to the members and community members for review and to make changes or additions. The following changes and ideas were offered:

- 1) Scott Gagnon – Reconvening the Opiate Task Force; should also make reference to the disposal of medications; Guy informed members of new information regarding regulations and disposal of medications;
- 2) Peter McCorison – need to add a second paragraph regarding providing information to legislators on the impact of opiate use from the information we received from SAMHS;
- 3) Jim Mello, community member, offered the idea of creating “Cold turkey” rooms to support detox, and after the detox takes place, provide a continuum of services to assist the individual achieve a stable recovery; Peter referred to SAMHS’ support of social detox - services provided at a much lower level than hospital services;
- 4) Peter also presented the results of the Survey Monkey sent out to providers by SAMHS. The survey showed there was no interest from the rural health centers in offering methadone maintenance as an intervention. Peter feels there needs to be some sort of effort to engage providers.
- 5) The members and community guests then offered other ideas which included: recovery centers; therapeutic community models; Providence Houses an organization that helps communities develop community based recovery homes; halfway homes. Guy informed members that sober homes are not required to be licensed and therefore are not funded;

- 6) Physical healthcare – address the issue of pharmaceutical companies marketing of certain drugs;
- 7) Mobile Methadone Units
- 8) Jayne Harper, community member, suggested including reference to harm reduction services as a mechanism for engaging people in approaching and initiating their recovery.

Peter stated that he would work on incorporating these ideas into the recommendations and work again with Stacey Chandler to get the information we need for the second paragraph. He will also try to enhance some of the prevention and treatment ideas the Commission members talked about. Peter stated that he will send this out before the meeting, as the Commission will need to be close to completing the final draft by October 8<sup>th</sup>. Guy made reference to the third bullet on the MAT recommendations. Guy stated that SAMHS currently has a robust prevention system, but could use the Commission's advocacy for additional funding to make it even more robust. Guy recommended identifying the strengths of SAMHS prevention efforts and then identifying any additional needs. Scott Gagnon offered to assist Peter in strengthening the paragraph regarding prevention in the MAT recommendations.

Guy also referenced a paragraph about reconvening the Opiate Task Force. Guy recommended reaching out to Acting Director, Michael Botticelli on this and possibly meet with him and receive feedback on the Commission's list of recommendations.

Peter asked Ann Dorney to work on the paragraph regarding clear and concise best practice treatment guidelines.

Ann suggested getting more information on group models of therapy; how to engage health care providers to use different models; recommended that the state strongly engage the community by providing trainings, highlighting specific models and providing technical support on the implementation of these models;

Guy suggested inserting language around the development of partnerships; building bridges and making good connections;

Scott asked about the Prescription Monitoring Program (PMP) and possibly mandatory utilization. Guy said that PMP doesn't have the funding to make this change. Ann suggested changing mandatory to expanding utilization. Ann would also like to see Veterans Administration data be placed into the PMP;

Guy suggested sending the draft MAT recommendations out to the Licensing Boards and request their feedback.

Peter will have Deb send out the SASC MAT Recommendations draft document to the Commission members. Peter stated that the recommendations are due to the legislature by October 15<sup>th</sup>. Guy informed the Commission members that they could ask for more time to create their list for presentation to the Chair. Peter will contact the committee for request of an extension.

Ann asked if the Department could give the Commission members more details on Naloxone. She would like to see more first responders using it. She asked if it is possible to collect data on who is using Naloxone. Guy stated that he would look into where we could get the data.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

**Deb Doiron will send out the current draft MAT recommendations to the members; Peter McCorison, Scott Gagnon and Ann Dorney will work on finalizing the draft MAT recommendations for October 8<sup>th</sup> meeting; Guy Cousins will find a contact person for Ann Dorney regarding collecting data on Naloxone Kit use.**

**BREAK**

**Old Business:**

**Topic #5 – Follow-up on the Recovery Month Proclamation – Letter from Governor – Darren Ripley**

**Discussions:**

Darren had written a Proclamation and sent it to the Governor's Office. He received a letter back from Governor LePage. Darren read the Governor's statement from his letter regarding recovery to the Commission members. Darren said he thanked the Governor's Office for the response.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

**NA**

**Topic #6 – Recovery Month – a showing of the film “Anonymous People”**

Peter mentioned a number of events going on for Recovery Month:

Augusta Rally, September 20<sup>th</sup>

Limestone, The Farm – having a picnic September 14<sup>th</sup>

Portland Rally, September 14<sup>th</sup>

Community members spoke about the film and its important message of people in long term recovery, living productive lives and being able to express this fact to others.

**Conclusions or Actions and Responsible Lead Person; timeline if applicable:**

**NA**

**Prepare Agenda Items for the next meeting on October 8, 2014:**

Agenda for October:

No agenda items were discussed for next month.

**Adjourn Meeting: 12:00**